

# memorandum

Albuquerque Operations Office  
Amarillo Area Office

DATE: DEC 28 1995

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: AAO:SHS:DJK

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Supplemental Information for PC-JCO-95-003

TO: Bruce G. Twining, Manager, AL

The attached supplemental information is being transmitted to you for your consideration in the review and approval of PX-JCO-95-003, "Justification for Continued Operation (JCO) of Building 12-44, Cells 2-6; 12-85; 12-96; and 12-98, Cells 1-4 with Potential for Higher Release Consequences due to Increased Leakage Paths."

The supplemental information more clearly defines the need for the JCO as the larger than previously assumed leakage paths that were discovered in the assembly cells and describes Mason and Hanger (M&H) short-term actions to restore the facilities back to the configuration described in the authorization basis. These actions include the implementation of timely facility modifications to minimize the total leakage path in each cell to a maximum of 42 square inches with no single leakage path gap exceeding 1/4 of an inch. The completion of these actions will result in the elimination of the source term and operational restrictions currently imposed by the JCO.

Following the removal of the restrictions imposed by the JCO, M&H will establish a new 30 kg upper limit on plutonium for each assembly cell. This reduced limit is based on calculations which indicate that the off-site consequences for a cell accident would be less than specified in the existing BIO given this reduced source term and the completion of facility modifications to minimize leakage paths. The reduced upper limit for plutonium will remain in effect until issues with selected consequence analysis parameters (e.g., amount aerosolized) can be adequately resolved allowing finalized off-site dose calculations to be published and approved in either the Assembly Cells SAR or the Pantex Site Wide EIS.

Amarillo Area Office (AAO) has reviewed the supplemental information to PX-JCO-95-003 and finds the approach of correcting excessive leakage paths as an acceptable means of eliminating the restrictions imposed by the JCO. Further, AAO concurs with instituting a new upper limit of plutonium until issues associated with the consequence analysis for the Assembly Cells SAR and Pantex Site Wide EIS can be appropriately reconciled.

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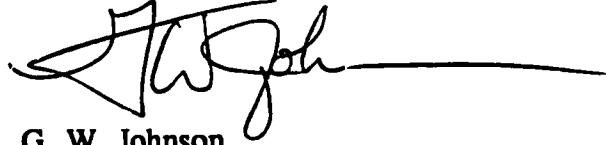
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DEC 28 1995

Bruce Twining

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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dennis J. Kelly of my staff at (806) 477-7161.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. W. Johnson", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

G. W. Johnson  
Area Manager

Attachment